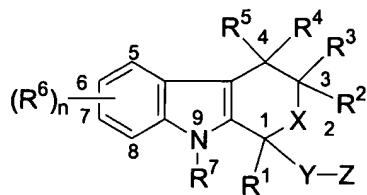


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic method for treatment of non-malignant diseases characterized by the excessive growth of tissue comprising administering to a patient in need of said therapy, an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R¹ is lower alkyl, (hydroxy)lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, lower cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl or 2-thienyl;

R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are the same or different and are each hydrogen or lower alkyl;

each R⁶ is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy, (hydroxy)lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, benzyloxy, lower alkanoyloxy, nitro or halo;

R⁷ is hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower alkenyl, X is oxy and thio, Y is carbonyl, -(C₁-C₃)alkyl(CO)-, -(CH₂)₁₋₃-, or -(CH₂)₁₋₃SO₂-;

Z is hydroxy, lower alkoxy, (C₂-C₄)acyloxy, -N(R⁸)(R⁹), phenylamino, (ω-(4-pyridyl)(C₂-C₄)alkoxy), (ω-((R⁸)(R⁹) amino)(C₂-C₄)alkoxy), an amino acid ester of (ω-(HO)(C₂-C₄))alkoxy, -N(R⁸)CH(R⁸)CO₂H, 1'-D-glucuronyloxy, -SO₃H, -PO₄H₂, -N(NO)(OH), -SO₂NH₂, -PO(OH)(NH₂), -OCH₂CH₂N(CH₃)₃⁺, or tetrazolyl;

wherein R⁸ and R⁹ are each H, (C₁-C₃)alkyl or together with N are a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring comprising 1-3 N(R⁸), S or nonperoxide O; n is 0, 1, 2, or 3; and

each alkyl or phenyl group of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and Z is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 (C₁-C₄)alkyl groups; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

wherein the disease is benign prostate hyperplasia.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 3, wherein the compound of formula (I) is administered orally.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 2, wherein the compound of formula (I) is administered in combination with an androgen inhibitor, or an α -1 adrenergic receptor blocker.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the androgen inhibitor is finasteride.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the α -1 adrenergic receptor blockers is phenoxybenzamine, prazosin prezosin, terazin, doxazosin, or tamsulosin.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 3, wherein Z is the L-valine or L-glycine ester of 2-hydroxyethoxy.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 3, wherein Z is N-morpholinoethoxy.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 3, wherein each R⁸ is H, CH₃ or i-Pr.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 3, wherein Z is OCH₂CH₂N(CH₃)₃.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 3, wherein the compound of formula (I) is etodolac.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 3, wherein the compound of formula (I) is the R(-)-isomer.